

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP EEC

SUBJECT: VISIT OF EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 020292

1. MISSION CONVEYED INVITATION REFTEL AND EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI ACCEPTS WITH PLEASURE. IN CONVERSATION WITH EUR/RPE DIRECTOR PREEG AND MISSION OFFICER, ORTOLI'S CHEF DE CABINET DE MARGERIE SAID THAT ORTOLI WOULD EXPECT TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK (WHERE HE PLANS TO SPEND WEEKEND WITH HIS SISTER) ON SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 22 AND DEPART IN LATE AFTERNOON OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, IN ORDER TO RETURN FOR COMMISSION MEETING NEXT DAY. ORTOLI WOULD THEREFORE BE AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS ON BOTH FEBRUARY 23 AND 24.

2. DE MARGERIE INDICATED THAT, WHILE ORTOLI'S THOUGHTS ON APPOINTMENTS, BEYOND HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, WERE TENTATIVE, HE WOULD DEFINITELY LIKE TO MEET WITH SECRETARIES KISSINGER AND SIMON. HE SUGGESTED THAT MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSMEN COULD BE USEFUL. WITH REGARD TO TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION IN ORTOLI'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, DE MARGERIE THOUGHT ORTOLI MIGHT WISH TO CONCENTRATE ON THREE: HOW ORTOLI VIEWS THE PRESENT STATE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION; HOW THE US VIEWS EUROPE AT THE PRESENT TIME; AND THE SITUATION IN THE NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN (PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND GREECE IN PARTICULAR). DE MARGERIE THOUGHT THAT OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON MIGHT INCLUDE EC/US TRADE ISSUES, THE

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NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, AND THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE

US AND EUROPE. (IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION HANNAY, SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET, SAID THAT ORTOLI WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FEEL IT NECESSARY TO REFER TO ONE OR TWO SPECIFIC ISSUES, E.G., THE STEEL ESCAPE CLAUSE. THOID HAVING THESE ISSUES ASSUME TOO GREAT A ROLE IN THE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, HANNAY HOPED THAT THE SCHEDULE WOULD INCLUDE SUITABLE HIGH-LEVEL ECONOMIC POLICY OFFICIALS.)

3. COMMENT: MISSION RECOMMENDS SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ORTOLI'S VISIT BY WHITE HOUSE AND EC COMMISSION. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, WE REQUEST THAT PROPOSED TEXT OF RELEASE INCLUDING PURPOSE OF VISIT AND GENERAL INDICATION OF AREAS TO BE DISCUSSED, BE SENT TO US A FEW DAYS BEFORE EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT TO PERMIT INFORMAL COORDINATION WITH ORTOLI'S OFFICE.
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